

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6351

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS MONTREAL 0940

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: MONTREAL LONGSHOREMEN EXPECTED TO RESUME WORK

REF: MONTREAL 0846; OTTAWA 1815 AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING TO ARNOLD MASTERS, PRESIDENT OF MONTREAL'S MARITIME EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION (MEA), LOCAL LEADERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION (ILA) TODAY ORDERED THEIR MEMBERS TO END ILLEGAL WALKOUT WHICH BEGAN MAY 30. MASTERS EXPECTS PORT TO REOPEN MORNING OF JUNE 5.

2. MONTREAL ILA MEMBERS, WHO RETURNED TO WORK ON MAY 13 IN COMPLIANCE WITH BACK-TO-WORK LEGISLATION, WALKED OUT ILLEGALLY ON MAY 30 MAINLY BECAUSE OF THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH JOB SECURITY PROVISIONS OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT. THE CURRENT AGREEMENT, WITH MODIFICATIONS RECOMMENDED BY JUDGE ALAN GOLD (SEE OTTAWA 1504), WAS EXTENDED BY COURT ORDER UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1977. IT GUARANTEES MONTREAL LONGSHOREMEN 1600 HOURS OF WORK OVER 40 WEEKS BUT WITH PAY ONLY FOR ACTUAL TIME WORKED. LONGSHOREMEN CLAIM THIS REQUIRES THEM TO BE ON CALL SEVEN DAYS A WEEK OR RISK FORFEITING PART OF THEIR GUARANTEED WORK TIME. IN EARLIER WALKOUT FROM MARCH 29 TO MAY 13, ILA MEMBERS WERE SEEKING A GUARANTEED ANNUAL WAGE BASED ON 2080 HOURS OF WORK, UNCLASSIFIED

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EQUIVALENT TO A FIVE-DAY EIGHT-HOUR WEEK OVER 52 WEEKS.

3. MASTERS SAID UNION WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR REVISION OF JOB SECURITY PROVISIONS OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT. THIS IS EXPECTED TO BE THE MAIN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT REGULAR MANAGEMENT-LABOR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 16. COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR THREE SUCH MEETINGS EACH YEAR.

4. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS REPORTEDLY ALREADY BEGUN CONTEMPT OF COURT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ILA LOCAL AND HAS INSTITUTED LEGAL ACTIONS AGAINST SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING OFFICIALS OF LOCAL. OUTCOME OF THESE PROCEEDINGS IN EVENT WORK STOPPAGE ENDS IS NOT KNOWN.
HARPER

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